Pollution in Ahmedabad

*100. SHRI AHMED MOHMED-BHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT- AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Indian Express dated 31st October, 1993 under the heading 'Traffic Cops in Ahmedabad run high risk of Cancer';

(b) if so, whether according to the report, four out of every five traffic policemen in Ahmedabad are exposed to high risk of cancer and three out of every five suffered from respiratory problems;

(c) if so, whether the Consumer Education Research Centre also carried out a survey which concluded that more than 50 per cent of vehicles on Ahmedabad city roads caused pollution;

(d) whether a Central Road Research Institute document points out that these; exposed to high pollution suffer from throat, skin and respiratory problems;'and

(e) if so, whether any concrete steps in this regard are worked out by Government for remedial measures in thi$_s$ regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The document of the Central Road Research institute entitle "Effect of environmental pollution due to road traffic on health of Delhi Traffic Policemen" mentions that high air pollution levels may lead to throat and respiratory problems.

(e) Yes, Sir. The steps taken by the Government to control vehicular pollu-\ tion include the following:

(i) Emission norms for both petrol and diesel drivei vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules 1989 and these are under implementation from 1990.

(ii) The Ministry of Surface Trans port have advised the various Stati Transport Directorates to enforce thea standards.

(iii) Lead content in petrol have al ready been brought down to a nationa average of 0.18 gm/litre. Efforts an being made to reduce their levels even further.

(iv) Public awareness campaigns havi been launched on various measures to prevent and control pollution fron vehicles.

(v) More stringent norms for vehi cular emissions have been notified unde the Central Motor Vehicles Rules in September 1993 which would come inti effect from 1996.

(vi) Automobile manufacturers hav been asked to develop and improve thel technology to meet the more stringei standards for emissions from vehicles.

(vii) City planner$_s$ are advised to in corporate in their plans the long-tern requirements of city transportation.

Ganga Action Plan

621. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gang Action Plan launched in the year 198 still faces problems which are likely to delay in realization of its targets;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof

(c) whether it is also a fact that th rivers continues to be polluted by the flo of industrial and city waste into the rivei and

(d) if so, the details of steps being take to check this and streamline its develoi ment process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF TH MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AN! FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (s and (b) Most of the schemes taken u under the Ganga Action Plan Phased am likely to be completed by 1993-94. Th

completion of a few schemes mainly of sewage treatment plants has been delayed due to contractual problems and delay in acquisition of land. The concerned State Governments have, however, committed to complete these schemes during 1994-95.

(c) and (d> At times, due to electricity/ power supply interruptions and non completion of a few schemes of interception and diversion some sewage continues to flow into the river. The industrial pollution is, however, checked by the enforcement of Environmental Law$_s$ through the Central Pollution Control Board/State Pollution Control Boards. The State Governments have been advised to ensure uninterrupted power supply for taking the full advantage of the facilities created. However, the water quality in terms of Dissolved Oxygen (DO) at all the 27 monitoring stations under GAP have shown discernible improvement and has consistently been above the desired level. In respect of Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), the levels meet the desired standard at all these monitoring stations, except at Kanpur and sometimes at Vara-nasi, where the trend has been found to be erratic. Close monitoring of the progress of work is being carried out at appropriate levels both in the State and the Central Govt, in order to complete the schemes expeditiously.

Targets fixed for afforestation of drought prone areas

622. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed any targets for afforestation of drought prone areas in the State of Bihar and other parts of the country which are frequently affected by droughts; * .

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) how much of funds have..... been earmarked for this purpose for , the current year; and

(d) how much afforestation has been done in the drought prone areas of Bihar so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The State-wise targets for afforestation and tree Planting activities under the 20-Point Programme including for the drought prone areas in the State of Bihar and other parts of the country which are frequently affected by droughts, are fixed on an annual basis. The targets fixed for the year 1993-94 in this behalf, including for the Bihar State, are given in the enclosed statement-! *(See* below).

(c) The funds available for undertaking the afforestation and tree planting activi ties during 1993-94. through the schemes of the State Government as well as the scheme^ of the Central Govenment are approximately Rs. 875 crores."

(d) According to the available infor mation, afforestation and tree planting activities were carried out on around 16 lakh hectares of land during the period 1973-74 to 1992-93 in Bihar and other States under the Drought Prone Areas Programmes (DPAP) which is imple mented in identified drought prone dis tricts of the country. The details in this behalf are given in the enclosed statement-II.